

Ischaemum keralensis, a new species of *Poaceae* from Kerala (India)

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Summary : Description of *Ischaemum keralensis*, a new species of *Poaceae* from Kerala (India), allied to *I. burmanicum* Bor.

Résumé : Description de *Ischaemum keralensis*, nouvelle espèce de *Poaceae* de Kerala (Inde), proche de *I. burmanicum* Bor.

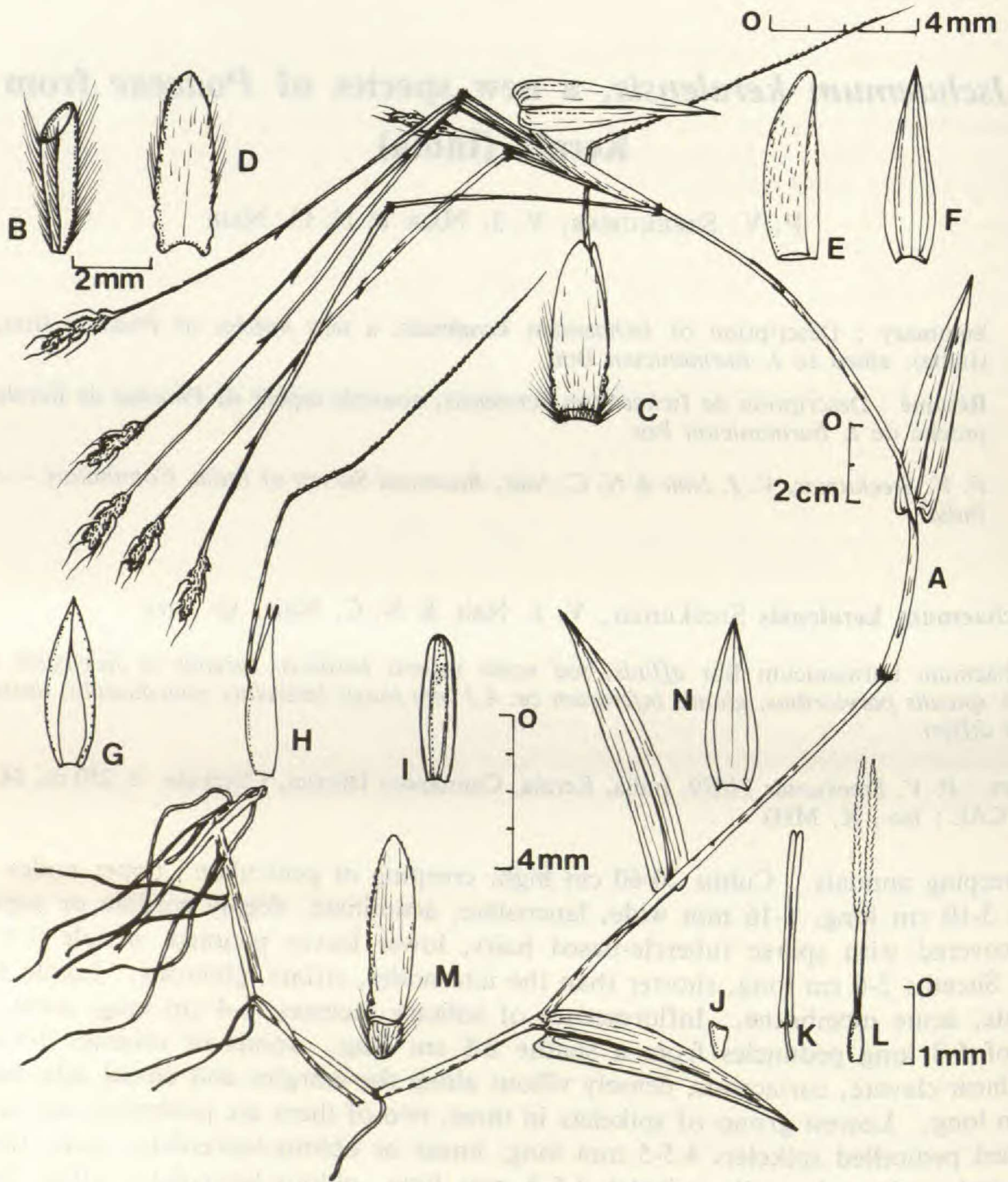
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Ischaemum keralensis Sreekumar, V. J. Nair & N. C. Nair, *sp. nov.*

Ischaemum burmanicum Bor *affinis*, sed *nodis superis barbatis, racemis in fasciculos numero- rum 5-8, spiculis parvioribus, glumis inferarum ca. 4.5 mm longis lateraliter paucinodulis, antheris brevioribus differt.*

TYPE : *P. V. Sreekumar 71839*, India, Kerala, Cannanore District, Cherkala, ± 250 m, 24.11.1981 (holo-, CAL ; iso-, K, MH).

Creeping annuals. Culms 20-60 cm high, creeping or geniculate ; upper nodes villous. Leaves 3-10 cm long, 6-16 mm wide, lanceolate, acuminate, deeply cordate or sagittate at base, covered with sparse tubercle-based hairs, lower leaves petioled, petiole 0.5-1.5 cm long. Sheaths 2-6 cm long, shorter than the internodes, striate, glabrous. Ligule 1-2 mm, an ovate, acute membrane. Inflorescence of solitary racemes, 1-4 cm long, stout, in fascicles of 5-8 long peduncles from a spathe 2-5 cm long. Joints of racemes 3.5-4.0 mm long, linear-clavate, coriaceous, densely villous along the margins and dorsal side, hairs 0.5-2.5 mm long. Lowest group of spikelets in three, two of them are pedicelled and unawned. Unawned pedicelled spikelets 4.5-5 mm long, linear or oblong-lanceolate, single flowered ; floret male. Awned sessile spikelet 4.5-5 mm long, oblong-lanceolate, callus bearded ; lower glume 4.5-5 × 1-1.25 mm, oblong-acute, coriaceous, faintly 9-11-nerved, sparsely villous in the lower half and also along the margins, with a few side nodules, margins inturned, scabrid towards apex ; upper glume 4.5-5 × 1.5-1.75 mm, boat-shaped or ovate-lanceolate when spread, coriaceous, sharply keeled, keel minutely winged and scabrid towards apex, strongly 3-nerved, margins hyaline, ciliate in the upper half, softly hairy on dorsal side ; lower floret male ; lemma 4.5-5 × 1-1.5 mm, ovate-lanceolate, delicate, hyaline, faintly 3-5-nerved, margins infolded, ciliolate in the upper half ; palea 4-5 × 1-



Pl. 1. — *Ischaemum keralensis* : A, entire plant ; B, joint (rhachis) ; C, sessile spikelet (dorsal view) ; D, lower glume of the sessile spikelet (dorsal view) ; E, upper glume (lateral view) ; F, lower lemma (ventral view) ; G, palea (ventral view) ; H, upper lemma (lateral view) ; I, upper palea (dorsal view) ; J, lodicule ; K, stamen ; L, pistil ; M, pedicelled spikelet ; N, upper lemma of the pedicelled spikelet (ventral view).

1.5 mm, elliptic-lanceolate, delicate, hyaline, 2-keeled, 2-nerved, glabrous; stamens 3, anthers 1-1.5 mm long; upper floret bisexual; lemma 4-4.5 × 0.75-1 mm, notched, lobes acuminate, delicate, hyaline, faintly 3-nerved; awn 12-16 mm long, geniculate, column 4-6 mm long, brown, bristle pale, scabrid; palea 3.5-4 × 0.5-0.75 mm, linear or oblong, delicate, hyaline, 2-keeled, 2-nerved, glabrous with a few wart like dots towards apex; lodicules 2, each *ca.* 0.5 × 0.25 mm, oblanceolate, retuse at apex; stamens 3, anthers 2-3 mm long, filaments short; ovary *ca.* 0.5 mm long, oblong, styles *ca.* 1.5 mm long, slender, stigma *ca.* 2 mm long, feathery. Pedicelled spikelets 4.5-5 mm long, oblong-lanceolate, unawned; pedicels *ca.* 1 mm long, clavate, sparsely villous; lower glume 4.5-5 × 1-1.25 mm, oblong-lanceolate, coriaceous, sparsely villous or glabrous, margins inflexed, scabrid towards apex; upper glume 4.5-5 × 1-1.5 mm, ovate-lanceolate, coriaceous, faintly 3-5-nerved, glabrous; florets more or less similar to those of the sessile spikelet; upper lemma 4-4.5 × 1-1.25 mm, oblong-lanceolate, entire, delicate, hyaline, faintly 3-nerved, glabrous.

Growing in moist rocky places; usually in shady places; locally very rare.

This species is allied to *Ischaemum burmanicum* Bor, but markedly differs from it as shown in the table.

<i>Ischaemum burmanicum</i>	<i>Ischaemum keralensis</i>
1. Nodes glabrous	Upper nodes bearded
2. Racemes terminating the branches and the main culm, not in fascicles	Racemes in fascicles of 5-8 from a spathe, long peduncled
3. Spikelets larger, up to 7 mm long	Spikelets smaller, up to 5 mm long
4. Lower glume <i>ca.</i> 6.5 mm long, smooth, without side nodules	Lower glume <i>ca.</i> 4.5 mm long, with a few side nodules
5. Anthers longer	Anthers shorter

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